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SOLDIER LETTERS

A Letter About the Regulars
Camp Dodge, Iowa.
June 24, 1919

To the Editor:

I wish to take the liberty of putting before the public a fact or two about the regular soldier.

Too little has been said in the newspapers about the gratitude due the regulars, just because they are "Regulars." The people seem to think that—well they're some sort of professional, automatic thing that does their fighting for them and there's no more said about it, as if they weren't true American boys that went from their homes to fight for democracy and their country as well as any of the national guardsmen or the men who waited to be called in to fight.

All one hears about is the fighting of the "88th," or the "Rainbow" division or some other national army or guard division. The boys who were most anxious to see real fighting and see it quick are the ones who volunteered in the regulars and those two fighting marine regiments, they are still across the Rhine doing their duty and not arriving home with receptions, and the grand "Welcome Home" but are still on the job and will be for some time to come—but when they do come, what kind of welcome will they receive?

It is only natural that divisions of sectional origin should get great welcomes from the state from which they came. Somewhere and somehow a similar welcome should greet the regulars. And that welcome cannot be too great.

The regular regiments which went overseas first now contain but very few men who have long served their country, whose greeting should be all the more hearty for that, and the men who volunteered at the outbreak of the war, which gives them a hold on the public's gratitude second to none, and so the same feeling should hold for the regular as well as the drafted men who filled in the gaps in these divisions made by battle.

Owing to the fact that the men of these organizations did not all come from the same place is no reason why they should be robbed of the proper expression of the whole country's appreciation of their services, which are unsurpassed in the American army.

The First division was made up of regular soldiers and was the first to reach France in the summer of 1917 and along with several other regular divisions and marine regiments, they are the men who did the greater part of America's fighting in the greatest war ever known, and won the victory over the Hun.

The First division was at Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and twice in the Argonne-Meuse battle.

So when these regular divisions come back among the last to reach home as they were the first to go over, and that many other divisions have preceded them and the welcome of returning troops is no longer a novelty, the fact should not slow the public to fall in giving them the credit, greeting and honor that is their just due.

FRANK P. TURVEY,
Co. I, 2nd Inf'ty.,
Camp Dodge, Iowa.

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